

News Release



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Lowe's and WorkSource Announce Statewide Hiring Partnership

Lowe's home improvement centers will form a statewide partnership with WorkSource to recruit workers for the company's Washington stores. Representatives of Lowe's and WorkSource jointly announced their partnership today.

"WorkSource is a phenomenal resource that can assist us with our recruiting efforts, diversity goals, and community outreach," said Robin Pelaez, Lowe's regional human resource director for Washington, Oregon, Alaska and Montana.

The partnership kicks off this week when WorkSource business representatives tour stores and meet with local human resources managers, who in turn will visit WorkSource centers.

Lowe's operates 1,011 stores nationwide, including 22 in Washington. The company hires about 1,800 workers annually in Washington.

Employment Security Department Commissioner Sylvia P. Mundy said the partnership between Lowe's and WorkSource is great news for Washington job seekers.

"Lowe's offers good jobs with competitive wages and benefits, employee training, and a variety of career paths," Mundy said. "The company has a strong corporate commitment to diversity and community service."

WorkSource is a partnership of government agencies, colleges and nonprofit organizations that offer employment services to job seekers and businesses at 23 centers and 50 affiliate offices throughout the state. It maintains the state's largest pool of job seekers and their qualifications.

Lowe's employees have established positive working relationships in some communities with WorkSource staff who help recruit and screen workers. Pelaez wants all stores to make that connection.

"It is a wonderful resource that has not been utilized to its full capacity in every market we have," she said.

(more)

Ray Chapman, store manager in Bellingham, and Reggie Taschereau, human resources manager of Lowe's in Lynnwood, said they've been impressed with the caliber of applicants and services WorkSource provides.

"It's an advantage to have access to such a professional system. The staff, the facility, all of the resources – and at no cost," Chapman said. "WorkSource gave us a prominence in the marketplace and lent credibility to our hiring process. You just get the sense that they really want to help your company to succeed."

Taschereau has enjoyed free business seminars sponsored by WorkSource and has spoken at workshops the centers provide for job seekers.

Pelaez said working with WorkSource benefits the community, as well as her company.

Lowe's has announced plans for 150 new stores the next year. While no new stores are immediately planned in Washington, Pelaez said the expansion could create new openings here as workers transfer. In addition, the company annually hires about 50 new workers per store in preparation for its busy spring selling season.

Lowe's accepts online applications through its store kiosks and Web site. Applicants are able to use computers at WorkSource offices to apply.

Customer service is a top priority for the company.

"We are looking for people with a can-do attitude to go out of their way and make the customer's visit a pleasant, helpful, productive one," Taschereau said.

Stores are often in need of workers with specialized skills such as plumbing, electrical, cabinet construction, forklift drivers, and sales. Lowe's representatives said partnering with WorkSource will help them target recruitment efforts to applicants with those qualifications.

"WorkSource is an established employment resource in the community. It just makes sense to go to where the job seekers are," Chapman said.

Pelaez said she is working toward developing similar relationships with local workforce systems in other states.

For more information about WorkSource business services, visit www.go2worksource.biz.

For information about Lowe's, visit www.lowes.com. Click on the "careers" link for job opportunities.

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News Media: For assistance contacting WorkSource and Lowe's representatives in your community, contact Kristin Alexander at (360) 902-9307, kalexander@esd.wa.gov.